

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

## 1984 SO NEAR AND YET SO NEAR

This is probably not the first time you will have seen a headline that compares present day reality to the nightmare world portrayed in George Orwell's prophetic novel. It certainly won't be the last.

Everyday life in Hackney may not be as dramatic in 1984 as Orwell's imaginary world but the present Conservative government is doing as much as it can to increase misery in the borough. It feels as though we've been living in 1984 for the last 4½ years. Here are just some of the Tories' plans for Hackney in 1984:

### ● £20million rate support cut for Hackney

The secret of the Tories' plan to reduce public expenditure is that they make their cuts indirectly-- and leave local councils to take the blame for deteriorating

services and increasing rates. 1984 will see the most severe round of cuts yet-- see "COUNCIL ZAPPED" on page 3.

### ● ILEA threatened with £120m "streamlining"

The ugliest feature of these backdoor cuts is the way they erode local democracy. As part of their plans to "streamline" the inner cities, the Tories hope to abolish

ILEA. If they succeed, London's schools will be controlled by unelected mandarins in Whitehall-- See "Parents and Teachers unite to save ILEA" (right)

### ● Hospital closures at St Leonard's, Mother's, German and St Matthews?

40 Hackney Health Emergency demonstrators were thrown out of the Regional Health Authority meeting held on

28 November. The campaign to save our hospitals continues-- See "Health Cuts Protest" on page 2.

### ● Police bill will erode rights and freedoms

### ● Inner city Partnership funding running out

### ● Sizewell reactor - more nuclear trains

### ● Cruise missiles, Norman Tebbit, YTS - the bloody list is endless



## Defence campaigner jailed for 2 years

Cirus Noor, a member of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, was convicted and sentenced to prison for two years on two counts of possessing offensive weapons. The weapons in question were bottles filled with paraffin and the two charges were for intent to cause damage and intent to injure.

Cirus Noor went to school with Colin Roach and was arrested three times during the demonstrations that followed Colin Roach's death at Stoke Newington police station on 12 January 1983.

Noor was angered by the police crackdown on what were peaceful and non-violent marches. He decided to make a more dramatic protest to force the authorities and the public to take notice of the Colin Roach campaign.

On 12 April this year Noor arrived outside Bethnal Green police station. According to the police, Detective Brown caught him in the act of throwing an object at the police station. After a violent struggle DC Brown said the object flew over his shoulder and burst into flames on the pavement. Noor got away from Brown and ran into the police station, where officers say they arrested him while he was lighting two more firebombs.

Cirus Noor maintains however that he threw a paraffin bomb to the ground outside the station. Nothing happened.

Noor says that he then walked into the station and put two more bottles on to the floor in front of him.

"What's your game, mate?" asked the desk officer.

"You murdered my friend," replied Noor. He was then arrested.

The jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court did not fully believe the police side of the story; they acquitted him on the four most serious charges of attempted arson. One observer at the trial said that evidence emerged that indicated that the Bethnal Green police station was almost deserted at the time of the incident because most of the officers were around the corner at the pub.



## Parents and teachers unite to save ILEA

The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) is under threat of being "reorganised" out of existence by two government White Papers, one on "Streamlining the Inner Cities" and another on "Rate Capping" high spending local authorities.

Hackney councillor and ILEA deputy leader Ruth Gee explained: "This is a double-pronged attack. The rate capping proposals mean we will be asked to reduce this year's budget by £120 million -- and we've been without a direct grant since

1981. All the parties on ILEA oppose this threat to local authority autonomy. If we don't meet their targets, the government will intervene and take direct control.

"Under the second White Paper, ILEA would be replaced with a 'joint board for education'. The Secretary of State would dictate the budget for the first three years -- until 1990. The principle of having elected representatives in charge of the authority would go by the board."

*Continued on page 8.*

## Inside

Police Watch	p3	Sweaty shoes	p5
Fascists infiltrate youth centre	p4	Monster mystery at Chat's Palace	p6
Community workers in conflict	p4	PLUS: Beer ★ What's On ★ Letters ★	

# UP TO TOWN

On Wednesday 14 December, the day that the Government announces the level of funding that they think Hackney should get next year, Hackney people are going to town. A fleet of coaches will take community groups from all over the borough to the Department of the Environment's press conference to show how much we, the people who live here, care about Hackney. The idea, the Save Hackney campaign say, is to present the image of a strong, positive, valuable community being faced with the chop by a heartless central Government.

This trip is just one event in the many that are happening soon organised by the Save Hackney campaign. Stalls are being held in Ridley Road and Chatsworth Road markets, the Rio Cinema is producing a slide show on One Day in Hackney, various groups are organising open days and a big Christmas social is being held in Stoke Newington Town Hall on Wednesday 21 December with live bands: this last event is FREE, and promises to be Hackney's big Christmas social occasion!

The 'Brick Wall' Petition is now going ahead rapidly: you can get Bricks from the Hackney Community Action office in Shoreditch Town Hall.

So far the publicity side of the campaign has worked

well. The boat trip down the river to Westminster (reported in HPP last month) was a great success, as was the breakfast party on the Town Hall steps given to the junior minister Sir George Young. But the partnership meeting that Sir George went on to after his breakfast still doled out cuts in the programme: cuts in money that Hackney really needs.



The plans that the Government are likely to announce on 14 December are going to be the severest test ever of the Council and the people of Hackney's collective will to survive. (See the article 'Council Zapped' on facing page.) No amount of fancy dress, balloons and breakfast parties with Ministers will turn the Tory onslaught on Hackney away if there is not the political will to save and develop services and community groups amongst the people. It should be the number one task for us all as we turn the corner into 1984.

## Health Cuts Protest

Leaders of the Hackney Health Emergency campaign were to meet the chairman of the Regional Health Authority on 7 December to discuss the proposed cuts.

The protestors against the health cuts intended to put a number of demands to the chairman, Sir Henry Moore. These included:

- rejection of the regional strategic guidelines. These will close two out of three of Hackney's casualty departments and Barts maternity department. Several hundred more beds will be lost;
- a public meeting between campaigners and the four regional chairmen covering the London area;
- that he refuse to plan on a reduced budget;
- that he demands sufficient money from the Government to prevent cuts in the districts and to allow for expansion;
- that he refuses to accept manpower cuts imposed by the Government;
- refusal to sanction closure of any hospitals unless the service is fully replaced, eg, St Leonards in Shoreditch;
- that he accompanies Hackney Health Emergency on a visit to hospitals and community facilities in Hackney.

If Sir Harry does not agree to their demands, the campaigners will bring all RHA meetings to a halt.

## Reviews

*"City Farming and Community Gardening I" by Christopher Wardle.*

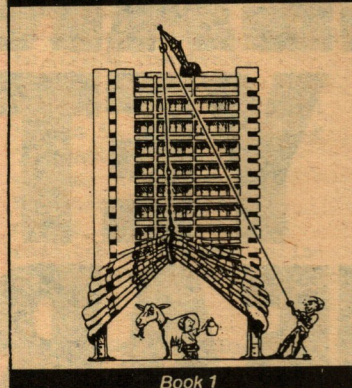
Published by Inter-Action Inprint at £3.95.

This is a handbook for any group hoping to set up and run a city farm. There are now over 33 such projects in existence up and down the country. As Ed. Berman says in his introduction: "Set against the large complicated social and economic problems of our cities a city farm is a small thing, no matter how many acres it occupies. It is also, however, a seedbed and a symbol of growth and environmental sanity in the grey and brown desert of our inner cities."

### City Farming

and Community Gardening I

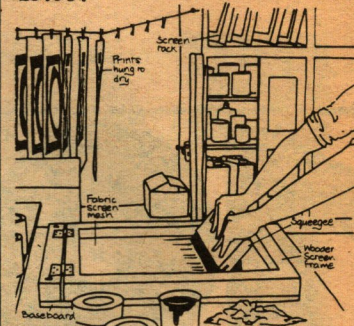
by Christopher Wardle



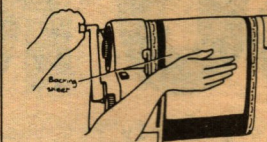
Book 1

The book is broken down into three main sections: Getting Started, Financing and Staffing. It has a very direct readable style - useful in a work of this type. When salient points are made, they are invariably backed up by quoted examples of strategies adopted by existing city farms. The recent poignant story of Hackney City Farm is highlighted in the chapter on 'Finding a Site' by literature issued during its ultimately unsuccessful quest for space on South Millfields. Where it is helpful to do so in the text, the reader is referred to sources which can provide further information. Resource lists, containing details by way of addresses, etc. are then found at the end of each section. Much of the information is, in fact, general enough to be of great interest to groups attempting to establish other kinds of community based organisations.

*"The Alternative Printing Handbook" by Chris Treweek and Jonathan Zeitlyn with the Islington Bus Company. Published by Penguin Books at £3.95.*



Here is a publication which is aimed at 'anyone who has anything to say.' "The Alternative Printing Handbook" is concerned not just with printing (in the strict sense of the term) but with other kinds of reprographic skills as well. Chapters are found on Stencil Duplicating, Screen Printing, Offset-litho and Other Printing Methods (photocopying, relief printing, rubber stamps, letterpress and spirit duplicating). What is more, there is additional room given over to vital ancillary techniques - with a section on distribution and a chapter on Design and Paste-up. A glossary, at the back of the book, allows you to cut through the mystery of any technical jargon while, next to it, there is a list of useful books and organisations



In many ways, the presentation of each technique is highly satisfactory - with a strong emphasis on well illustrated do-it-yourself advice. It should be highly appealing to the newcomer and even old hands should discover some useful tips. On the negative side, there are some surprising omissions - no mention, for example of KROY lettering machines, LECTRO-STIK waxes or thermal ink stencils. What worries me most, however, in a work designed to give advice to the first-time printer is the scant attention paid to the strictures of the Health and Safety at Work Act. It's an imbalance that I urge both the authors and the publishers to correct at the earliest opportunity.

## Resistance flowers at Greenham

Seeds grow

Even in stony places

Where all the odds of this society are against us  
We can still grow.

With halts and stumbles

Through weakness, fear, pain and anger  
We grow to strength.

And binding our strength

We find the power  
To shift the shit that oppresses us.

Impossible?

No.

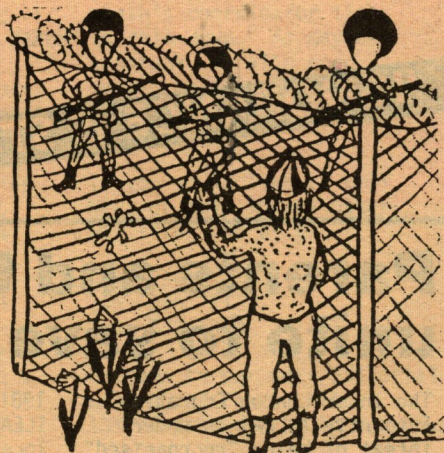
It can

And must

Be done.

Coaches are being organised to take women and children to Greenham on Sunday, December 11. Women who take part will help to embrace the base with sound. They are asked to take with them bulbs and seeds to plant, and mirrors and candles.

For places ring Rowan on 806 6025 or Rebecca on 254 1926.



## WORKERS REQUIRED

Centerprise, a busy multi-purpose community centre requires 3 new workers:

in our Advice Centre:

(s)he should have a working knowledge of welfare rights and housing legislation, and be experienced in advice giving-

in our Bookshop:

(s)he should have a working knowledge of bookship, library, or comparable work

in our Public Office:

(s)he should be interested in improving our information

service and general administration of the project.

All workers will be members of the Centerprise collective sharing work and responsibility throughout the project.

Applicants from ethnic minorities, and job shares welcome.

Salary £8,400 (under review) 40 hour week.

Please send a sae for further details to:  
CENTERPRISE, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2NS.

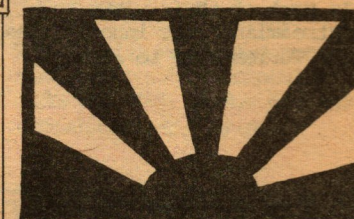
## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Saturday December 10 is Human Rights Day. This year it marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Hackney & Islington Amnesty International group hopes to use the occasion to draw local attention to its work.

In 1983 the group collected over 4,500 signatures for a petition calling for a universal amnesty for all prisoners of conscience--over 40,000 signatures have been collected nationally.

A special exhibition showing photos and documents of the work of Amnesty International will be mounted in Hackney Central Library from 3-10 December. Over the past year the local group has been fighting for the release of a Syrian student and it has recently taken up a campaign for the abolition of the death penalty in Turkey.

Last year, two of the prisoners for whom it campaigned -- a trade unionist from Syria and a Crimean tartar imprisoned in the Soviet Union-- were released.



**SUNPOWER**  
83 Blackstock Road,  
N4

Alternative bookshop,  
wholefoods and herbs.  
Natural toiletries,  
crafts, gifts and cards.

A workers co-operative.

Open  
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

# Government launches attack Council Zapped

Next year's restriction on council spending will be the most severe that the Tories have ever imposed on local authorities. Councils that have reached their target expenditure (set by the Department of Environment, of course, not by the councils themselves) are only permitted a two per cent cash rise next year. This represents a cut in real terms of about two per cent. Those who have overshot their targets this year -- which includes Hackney -- will have their targets cut by

## Increased penalties

up to a further six per cent. This is equivalent to a real cut of about 11 per cent.

Simultaneously, the Government has reduced the proportion of overall council spending that it is prepared to fund and penalties have been increased. This means that councils will lose grants at a rate of 2p in the pound for the first percentage point they are over target, 4p in the second, 8p for the third and 9p for the fourth and every point thereafter.

The effect of all this on Hackney is that the

Council will have to find about £2½ million merely to stand still. This means a rate rise of about 60 per cent. The alternative, if the Council's books are to be balanced, would be for it to sack 1600 from its workforce -- one in five of the Council staff.

The Government is hoping that councils like Hackney will choose to put the rates up by a large amount. This would give them the excuses they need to bring in their trick for the following year -- the infamous rate-capping legislation. This new law will give central Government greatly increased powers over local authorities,

## Council fightback

and would virtually be the end of any autonomy that local government has left in this country. The proposals are so severe that many Tory councillors from all over the country are up in arms over them. The Association of County Councils -- overwhelmingly controlled by Conservatives -- voted recently by 95 votes to 2 to reject the Government proposals. And there have been reports that up to 60 Tory MPs

might vote against the proposals when they are debated in Parliament.

The Government has not, however, ever been noted for its ability to listen to reason, and appeals and revolts in the Tory party have a habit of petering

## Rate-capping

out. Hackney, amongst others, is planning a wide variety of attacks on Government to try and put its case. Already departments, MPs and Lords have been showered with dossiers, charts and copies of the recent book "Inside the Inner City". Legal action in the courts is being considered.

The Council is making plans for political action. The actual figures for next year's Rate Support Grant will be announced on 14 December, and in the new year discussion will take place over what will be done. Publicity campaigns aimed at waking up the population of the borough are being planned. And the Council is working closely with the community organisation-based Save Hackney campaign.

# Police move in

Many people are now more than concerned about the unexplained move last month of the Metropolitan Police Special Patrol Group into Hackney, especially since this appears to make a nonsense of the new Neighbourhood Policing scheme in the borough.

According to Brynley Heaven, chair of Hackney Council's Police Committee, the role of the SPG has changed, from it being a centralised squad, cracking down on people like Blair Peach, to now being a more loosely held together group in search of something to do when not busting picket lines or patrolling demonstrations.

The Council's Police Committee regards the sending in of the SPG as a provocation and has asked for its with-

## Role of the SPG?

drawal but as yet has not had this demand met.

The Neighbourhood Policing Scheme also comes under suspicion, not in its aims, but because of the methods the police are employing to carry out these aims. It may be true that the police are making an attempt to build up an alternative 'leadership' in the borough, by setting up and infiltrating existing organisations, as a reactionary parallel to some left-wing groups like many tenants' associations, women's and community groups and trade unions. This has already happened in the Albion Square Tenants' Association, where the civilian co-ordinator for

'Neighbourhood Watch' turns out to be a magistrate!

The Police Committee says "we are all in favour of good neighbourliness", but it is anxious about denials made by the police that 'Neighbourhood Watch' is a 'policing' scheme as such, which it certainly must be, when personal details about unconvicted suspects go straight into the police computer as is happening at the moment.

## Watching the Neighbourhood

The effect that 'Neighbourhood Watch' is having on ordinary citizens may be worrying too. At a recent meeting between police representatives and people of the Charles Square Tenants' Association in Shoreditch, right-wing sentiments hung heavy in the atmosphere. Some people expressed the view that under the new scheme the police should have even greater powers to stop and search on the streets. The older residents, especially, seemed to be nostalgic for the days when 'you never dared cheek a policeman'.

The inspector from the City Road station said, in a bid to show what he considers to be the urgency of the need for a neighbourhood policing scheme, "We can, as a police force, go no further than we are now. If the idea doesn't work, then Great Britain will look to the European system of armory." A disturbing prospect -- but perhaps not more so than the present situation.

# Sexist clash at conference

At the Labour Party conference in October, Michael White, the Guardian's political sketch writer, wrote about "regrettable allegations of sexual harassment". He continued: "A bit of a stunner from Hackney complained that she had been addressed as darling and

dearie in the vicinity of Block K and had been asked for her telephone number. She appealed to 'Comrade chairboy and boys' to lay off."

Lesley Courcouf, the woman in question, is a member of the Stoke Newington and Hackney North Labour Party. Two other members of the party wrote the following protest to the Guardian:

Sir,—Having read Michael White's horrendous Brighton Sketch (October 5) may we, as members of Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party women's section, trouble you to point out that our delegate to conference, Lesley Courcouf, was not selected on the basis of her physical appearance.

The persistent trivialisation of the issues of sexism would seem to be in direct conflict with your alleged position as demonstrated in, for example, Naked Ape. Could this be tokenism we wonder?  
Heather Downs,  
Colleen Ryan,  
9a Margaret Road,  
London N16.

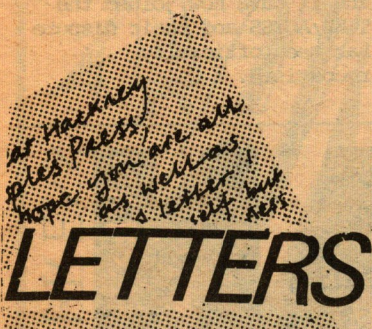
HPP has received a copy of Michael White's reply to Heather Downs and Colleen Ryan. He wrote: "...having read your well-meant but horrendous letter may I plead guilty to having written the offending paragraph with the express purpose of trying to signal to readers other than yourselves that not everyone has lost their sense of proportion about women's issues on the Guardian, though without subjecting

your friend Lesley Courcouf to ridicule.

"After all she is not a professional politician; though I suspect that she might have done better to employ an older response to her tormentors, perhaps along the lines of it taking a man not on his shirtbuttons etc (sic) -- perhaps updated into something cruder. Men are very easily ridiculed on sexual matters as you ought to know by now, and it hurts much more than a point of order."

"If half the stories of social deprivation in your part of London are true, then to have wasted time -- you or Lesley C -- complaining about being called "dear" or "darling" at a Labour conference is what I call real tokenism. I hope the voters of Hackney forgive you. I am in no hurry to."

Heather Downs and Colleen Ryan comment: "It highlights the problems women encounter when they try to become involved in politics, at any level." It also makes you wonder about the warped mentality that operates in that out of date gentleman's club at Westminster and other corridors of power, like union headquarters. Even though it sounds like Mr White may need help with his feelings of sexual inadequacy, I wouldn't be in any hurry to forgive him either.



## Ethnic monitoring

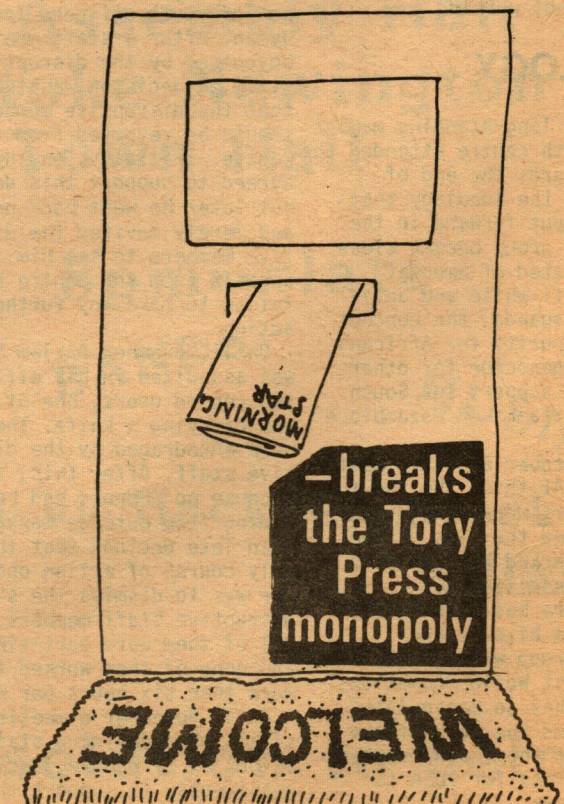
Dear HPP,

I am glad your paper agrees with the "Stop Ethnic Monitoring" campaign at Dole offices, but why stop there? We have ethnic monitoring at the Hackney Town Hall. If you want a job you must tell whether you are black, white etc. This is wrong and I trust your paper will fight this, the same way you are fighting the monitoring at Dole offices.

A R Lucas  
Downs Park House, E5.

ADVERTISEMENT

## Read the Morning Star every day



available from your newsagent

While industrial tension has increased across the country over the last month, Hackney has seen a number of distinctive disputes in the community/education sector. The most disturbing report comes from Clapton Youth Centre. There are also disputes under way at Free Form Community Arts Trust, Brass Tacks training workshop and the International Performing Arts Company in Hackney Wick.

# Youth centre closed as 'fascists' sacked

Clapton Youth Centre is at the moment closed and its two senior staff suspended after a series of incidents where there has been disruption of work and physical attacks on staff and users. The cause of the disruption is said by most of the full and part-time staff to be a part-time black youth worker who is linked with fascist organisations. After this worker, Perry Stanislas, and some of his supporters had been dismissed by the head of the centre, Jean Tate, who had warned them that their actions were disruptive, harmful to the development of the Centre's work and could lead to the ILEA closing the centre down, ILEA lost no time in acting. They suspended Jean Tate, and the other full-time staff member, Anslem Samuel.

By acting so fast, ILEA seized the chance it has been waiting for. Senior officers have been hostile to the way in which the Centre has been run since it was first set up in 1978. Throughout 1981 and 1982, a long and bitter struggle was waged to get Anslem Samuel appointed to a full-time post, against the wishes of the central ILEA bureaucracy. Eventually this battle was won, but the Centre had made many enemies at County Hall during the fight.

Perry Stanislas first started working at the Youth Centre in June this year. It was agreed that he should be employed on a part-time basis, and should co-ordinate a discussion group. He began to bring in friends of his to become Centre members and join the discussion group, and he encouraged other young black members of staff of the centre to attend the group when they were not working.

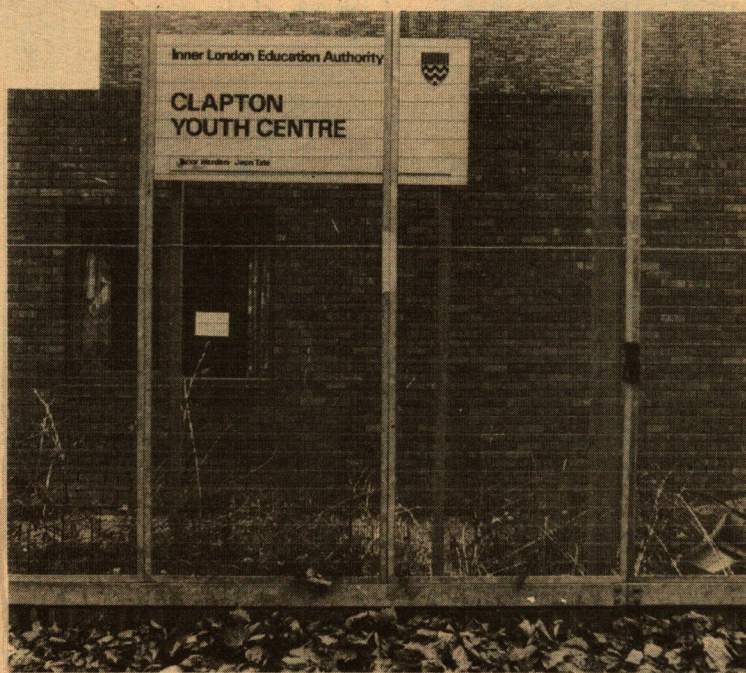
## IDEOLOGY

Only one long-standing member of the youth centre attended the group. Towards the end of September, the ideology that was being put forward in the discussion group became clear. This consisted of amongst others, anti-white and anti-asian propaganda, the concept of racial purity for Africans involving genocide for other races, and support for South Africa's attacks on Mozambique and Angola.

On 11 October a Centre meeting was held. At this, the two full-time workers were abused and vilified and the aims of the Centre attacked by Stanislas and his associates.

The Centre had been infiltrated by a bizarre and sinister group which called itself First World Promotions. The group has so manipulated and confused the work of the Centre that they have created the conditions for ILEA to close it down.

It is clear the First World promotes support for fascist ideas. Stanislas has said that he believes that "Hitler did



the right thing for his people" that he agrees with South African attacks on Angola and Mozambique and that he supports genocide for Asians, Arabs and whites. It is thought that First World has links with fascist organisations like the National Front, the British Movement and the League of St George.

## BOYCOTT

A number of meetings then took place, both internally between staff and members, and outside with other community organisations in Hackney. The disruptive staff either boycotted these meetings or used them to make unsubstantiated abuse and attacks on the majority of staff. They wrote to ILEA officers and members were encouraged to do so, it has been alleged, by the area's senior youth officer, Tony Hyman. After a staff meeting, boycotted by the disruptive staff, a decision was taken that the disruptive members should be removed from the Centre. Initially Tony Hyman agreed to support this decision but later he went back on this and merely invited the disruptive members to see him. Despite appeals from the Centre he has failed to take any further action.

On 11 November Anslem Samuel was assaulted in his office by two centre users, one of whom was carrying a knife. They had been encouraged by the disruptive staff. After this, and because no support had been coming from outside management, Jean Tate decided that the only course of action open to her was to dismiss the six disruptive staff members. All of them were part-time, and none of them worked for more than six hours per week.

On 17 November a meeting of all the remaining staff, 21 out of 27 people, decided unanimously to support the actions of Jean Tate and Anslem Samuel and wrote to ILEA to say this. They were all anxious that the future development of the Centre

should not be affected.

The very next day, Jean Tate and Anslem Samuel had letters delivered to them by hand from ILEA suspending them for terminating the contracts of the six part-time staff. They were told that a decision as to whether they would be paid while they were suspended had not yet been taken and that the Centre was to be closed.

The Clapton Youth Centre has since received support from a wide range of community and black organisations inside and outside Hackney. All of these are concerned that a Youth Centre which is popular with members and staff and which has developed its anti-racist work should not be closed by ILEA. A public meeting is to be held on Fri 16 December at the Asian Centre, 17 Dalston Lane at 7pm. Speakers will include Ernie Roberts MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Gerry Ross and Vidya Anand. Contact 254 1193 for details.

## Not so Free Form

Workers at the Free Form Arts Trust in Dalston Lane have been in dispute with management since September, when long-dormant 7 person management body put forward proposals to restructure the company.

For the past seven years all decisions concerning policy, working practice, finance, pay and conditions were taken cooperatively by the workers. The workers feel this approach is vital for building creative partnerships with the community and helped to boost the reputation of Free Form.

When the workers vetoed the new proposals, which had at their core a rigid hierarchical approach to decision making, the two workers on the management committee invoked the legal powers of that body.

The workers are all members of the TGWU/ACTSS and the union has been negotiating with management over the central issue of worker participation in management and other concerns such as working conditions and job contracts, public accountability and victimisation of workers. Four of them have found reasons to resign during the dispute. The arguments are now taking place at ACAS, the government's arbitration agency.

In the meantime the workers are asking for support in the form of lobbying councillors and MPs and in boycotting work from Free Form until the dispute is settled to the satisfaction of the workers.

## Show stopping

Sixty workers at International Performing Arts, which is based at St Mary of Eaton's in Hackney Wick, have also recently unionised. The project was recently taken

over and a dispute started when the new management sacked one of the project workers.

Pete Morris, speaking for the TGWU/ACTSS, told HPP that both Brass Tacks and International Performing Arts were part of the government's Community Programme (CP) initiative. Nine months ago the government introduced changes to its Community Employment Programme (CEP) that effectively reduced wages for programme employees. They also changed the name. The MAXIMUM wage for a CP worker is £60 per week. "The Programme was ill thought out and the wages are low," said Pete Morris. "It has all the ingredients to cause industrial conflict."

## Sharp end at Brass Tacks

On 1 December 11 trainee electricians were sacked by Brass Tacks training workshop in Ashwin Street, near Dalston Junction.

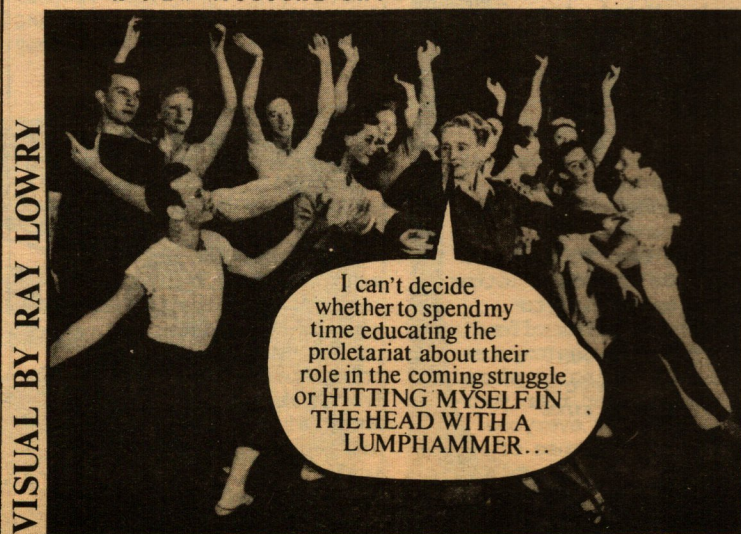
Management claimed that they were unable to find a replacement after the electrical repair shop supervisor resigned and that there was no alternative employment for the trainees within the project.

The workers say that a) the management have had three months to find a new supervisor; and b) the previous supervisor has been reappointed as of 19 December.

The electricians have tried to negotiate with management but to no effect— the project manager refused to talk to them and would not consider any alternatives. The 11 have now joined the TGWU/ACTSS and their dispute has been officially recognised.

# TROJAN

A NEW MUSICAL SHOW COMES INTO BEING



VISUAL BY RAY LOWRY

## PRINTING up to SRA3

Booklets, newsletters, posters, programmes etc.

## BADGES

3/4" - 2 1/4"

10a BRADBURY ST  
LONDON N16  
Tel 01 249 5771

# The factory that puts the boot in

The shoe trade is well-known for exploitation, but London Lane shoes of Downs Park Road E8 must surely stand out in their treatment of employees. Messrs. Goodman and Rubin, managing directors of the company, control their work-force through a mixture of force and intimidation.

London Lane shoes employ 150 people -- it is one of the few large shoe companies left in East London. The majority are women, of whom over half are Greek, Asian or West Indian. The average wage for women of 18 years and over is £70 for a 40 hour week, whilst for 16-18 year olds it is only £50 per week. This is a flat rate with no bonuses offered. However, the company work according to orders, so a certain amount of shoes have to be produced, on average 1200 shoes daily. If more shoes than this have to be produced then the whip is cracked harder to make people work harder.

Currently the workers only receive two five minute breaks and half an hour for lunch. The company do not provide any pension schemes either. One worker told me she thought it terrible that

"you can work here for 40 or 50 years and get nothing more than if you had been here for 10 years." The women work in noisy hot stuffy rooms with little opportunity for exercise or fresh air -- there appeared to be no windows.

Most of the work is very repetitive. The highest paid workers who do the "clicking", the skilled job of cutting the leather, are all male. Men often refuse to do the less skilled work, such as spraying glue onto the shoes. One woman who does spraying told me that "men would refuse to do the job because it's so dirty". She wryly reflected that spraying should warrant more since it was so dirty.

## Dangerous

It is more dangerous too, as she has no protection from glue fumes. Sprayers should be given milk. When she reminded her boss that she was entitled to milk, he replied that he intended to do nothing about it. She feels that men who do unskilled work receive more pay for the same job than women. Where a woman earned £70, an unskilled man might earn £100.

The workers are part of the National Union of the Boot and Leather and Allied Trades, but the union is scarcely visible at London Lane. The shop steward didn't speak to me, possibly due to fear of repercussions. London Lane is an exception in its size as most other factories in Hackney tend to be small operations. If ever there was a dispute it would be very difficult to get the support of other shoe workers because most of the other shoe factories in Hackney do not have unionised labour. Pay offers are presented to the union by the Boot and Shoe Federation annually. The last pay rise was 2% in April.

Workers are afraid to speak badly about their employers. Although all workers are supposed to have a contract they are not shown it at the interview stage and only receive it later if they specifically request it. Many are not aware they are supposed to have a contract, which protects them from arbitrary dismissal.

The management take full advantage of this situation. One woman was recently sacked after three days for talking about her pay to a co-worker. She received no warning that she was forbidden to talk about it. According to employees she was pushed out of the building with force after being sacked.



pic: Roland Felix.

I have heard that other workers have been dismissed for such vague reasons as "causing trouble", being "too independent", "working too slow" and even "using bad language". One employee was sacked for being heard calling the head man by his surname, and omitting the prefix Mr.

London Lane Shoes is a company that puts the client first at the expense of the workers. If a customer places an order for a certain number of shoes everyone gets pushed from the top downwards.

## Toilets

The contempt management show for the workers is clear in the condition of the toilets. Women's toilets are freezing cold in the winter. Perhaps this is to discourage the women from leaving their work too often to use the toilet. The men's toilet is cold and dirty, with graffiti covering the walls. In contrast, the management toilet has a 'Private' sign on it to make sure none of

the workers use it by mistake. It is clean with better quality toilet paper, warmer and just a single toilet with a cleaning brush. The workers are not even provided decent washing facilities -- just a row of sinks and foul-smelling soap, as opposed to 'Private' soap.

The Christmas period is one of the peaks of the year for the shoe business. In an editorial the bible of the trade, the 'Shoe and Leather News' tells factory owners that "Just at the moment things seem to be going well for the shoe business... a much greater confidence pervades the industry."

Inflation, they say, must be held down to 5% and "all round restraint must still be the order of the day." Should women on a wage of £70 per week exercise restraint and settle for a low pay rise like the 2% given last April? Can we expect the bosses of London Lane Shoes to exercise restraint in sacking workers?

## SAVE HACKNEY SOCIAL

WED 21ST DEC

Assembly Hall  
Stoke Newington  
Town Hall

8pm late

BAR BANDS MUSIC

Organised by Hackney Black Alliance

PHONE 729 5536 or call in to 380 OLD ST. EC1 for info.

All welcome

**FREE**  
All welcome

ADVERTISEMENT

Why not make a New Years Resolution to help  
"SAVE HACKNEY" in 1984

## Pub of the Month Extra



## HACKNEY SPECIAL BREW

Some people have said that we're so untogether we couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery, but this month we prove the critics wrong! Yes, we managed to get to a brewery, and not just any old brwery either, but at the Pitfield, Hackney's only brewery in Pitfield Street, N.1. And we managed a sociable half or two as well!

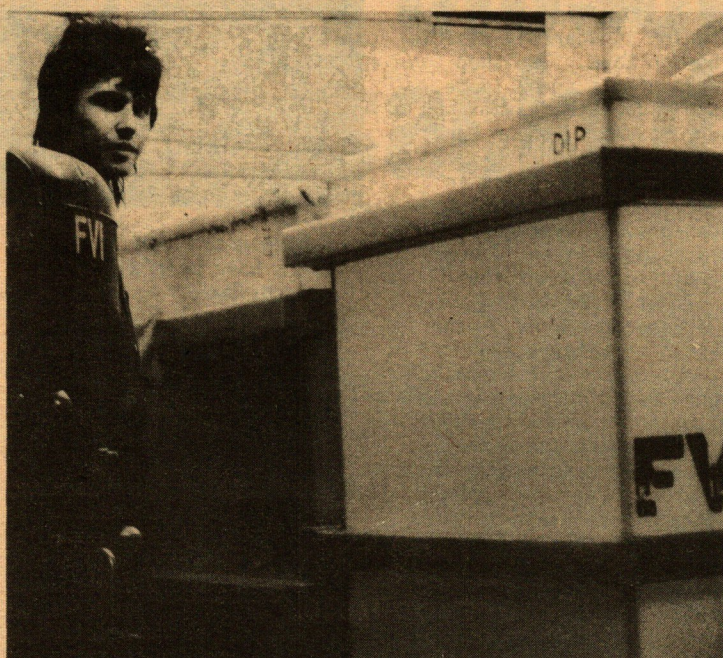
The Pitfield Brewery is part of the Beer and Home Brew Shop, an off-licence and home brew supply shop on the corner of Old Street in Shore-ditch. The brewery is so small and compact that even customers in the shop are not always aware of there being a brewery in the shop and basement. Although the shop was set up five years ago it wasn't until August 1981 that the brewing operation took off and, as far as we know, it is still the only off-licence in the country to brew on the premises.

It is run by Martin Kemp, Roy Dallison and Rob Jones. We asked Rob, the brewer, how the brewing side came about. At the time, he explained, he was a keen home-brewer and the manager of the off-licence. As part of a promotion, he produced a special give-away beer for a beer festival in Greenwich which went down so well that people joked "Why don't you set up a brewery in Pitfield Street?" The rest, dare we say it, is history with current production at 15 barrels a week; that's 4,300 pints to us drinkers.

## Mickey Mouse

Nothing to the likes of Watneys et al., but Rob recalls a time when he jokingly described themselves to a Customs and Excise man as a "Mickey Mouse brewery", to which the reply was "you're not - anyone paying £2,000 a month in duty has to be taken seriously." An opinion that will be shared by local fans of their Pitfield Bitter and Hoxton Heavy.

Pubs selling these beers include Campbell's Public House (Jridport St, N.1. - see Pub of the Month review May 1983), Chats Palace (Brooksby's Walk, E9), Chesham Arms (Mehetabel St, E9), Steptoes (Stoke Newington Church St, N.16 - see Pub of the month review August 1983), The Approach Tavern (Approach Road, E2) and the Pheasant and Firkin (Goswell Road, EC1). Availability and prices may vary in these free houses but at the brewery Pitfield, a



Checking the Hoxton Heavy - Pitfield's Brewer Rob Jones.

light refreshing brew, sells for 55p a pint and the Hoxton, a stronger dryish bitter, for 65p. Other beers may be available from time to time. These include Dark Star, which we tried in the bottled version. Unlike most beers this one proclaims that it contains "no added sugar". It's a bit more expensive than the draught ales, but was found by one of our team to be dangerous because it proved "very drinkable yet deceptively strong." A strong Christmas ale should be available by now and finally there is a dark malty, yet not too strong brew which is produced for special occasions and is still in search of a name. Rob Jones explained that it has been on sale under various names such as "Festival Special Ale" (at this year's Pigs Ear festival), "Bombmaker" and "Mild", but he is not completely happy with these and would welcome suggestions for a more suitable name.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY  
**PITFIELD BREWERY**  
N1

The shop itself is currently open from 12-7pm Monday to Wednesday, 12-9.30pm Thursday and Friday and 10am-4pm Saturday. In addition to their own beers they stock a selection of quest beers and ciders, bottled and on draught. Anyone wanting further information can telephone Martin or Rob on 739 3701.

ADVERTISEMENT

## Aladdin's Cave

The off-licence section is like Aladdin's cave for those with alcoholic tendencies and a taste for quality. An excellent range of the most highly regarded ales from breweries all over the country, plus a selection of continental beers, as well as beers from as far away as America and Japan, are available.

The home brew side stocks most things from kits for the person who wants to produce a drinkable wine or beer in a couple of weeks to ingredients for the specialist who wants to brew their own recipe. It was nice to know that the malt and hops on sale in the shop were the same that were used in the making of Pitfield Beers.

Unlike some breweries that are purpose built by a specialist company, the Pitfield had its origins at an Allied Brewery (that's Taylor Walker, Ind Coope etc.) "equipment graveyard" in Burton on Trent. A number of second hand tanks were bought and adopted, a few fermenting vessels purchased and with a bit of plumbing plus control equipment from Dave Jones of Ormawell in Essex, there existed the necessary equipment for Hackney to once again enter the world of brewing and take a step towards supplying itself with one of the essentials of life-good ale.

# What evil lurks in deepest Homerton? Shock horror investigation

HPP has received reports of ghoulish goings on in the marsh-mist shrouded reaches of Brooksby's Walk. The macabre activities seem to be concentrated in the vicinity of Chat's Palace. One source telephoned us at midnight on the night of the last full moon and could only gasp: "THINGS THAT GROW BUMPS IN THE NIGHT!" The telephone connection was mysteriously severed...

HPP decided to investigate. Lesley Allan, Chats Palace administrator, had a wicked gleam in her eye. We sat in an office decorated with gargoyles. And those goddamn bats....!

The Homerton Community Centre, which used to be a dignified oak-paneled library, has mutated into a Gothic baronial Hall called Mandrake House. Preparations are underway for a Christmas feast of fiends.

## GASP!

Lesley told a haunting story of the underworld. For seven years Princess Anthrax has been betrothed to Prince Gormless, son of Queen Malice. As the wedding night approaches Prince Gormless cannot be found and his uncle, Count Ronald D'Eath intervenes...

"People are invited to this year's christmas show to find out more," said Lesley. THINGS THAT GROW BUMPS IN THE NIGHT begins at Chat's on Wed 14 December. "Please remember, though," said Lesley, "that it's going to be a wedding celebration for monsters and spooks and people are asked to dress accordingly, as ghouls."

ADVERTISEMENT

AAAAAARRGH!

Make up consultants will be available during the run to advise guests on wart care and maintenance and how to make the most of their grey pallor.

The suspense will be eased by a cabaret of local artists and the ministrations of Mrs Beaten, the cook and Gorgon and Zola, Count Ronald's balletic minions. Not to mention a whole host of beasts and bogies.

The show is a total community project. The plot was devised by the cast and director John Perry. The costumes and imposing banqueting hall were designed and made in Chats workshops. Volunteers are still welcome to join the festivities. If you fancy turning your hand to bat-making, contact Lesley.

For the rest of you, why not creep down to Chats during December and January to discover the mystery of THINGS THAT GROW BUMPS IN THE NIGHT.

## ALPHA OMEGA TV AND HI-FI REPAIR CO-OP

10 BRADBURY ST, LONDON N16  
Telephone: 01-241 0715

- \* Treat yourself to a colour TV from £45 or B/W from £18.
- \* Repair work at really low charges to Hi-Fi's, Power Amps and customer repairs.
- \* With special rates for pensioners and claimants. All parts guaranteed.
- \* Tube change £25.
- \* Production of this advert guarantees you an extra £5.00 discount on our bargain prices

VIDEO EDITING  
PRODUCTION

AUDIO CASSETTE  
COPYING

# ANARRES

• CO-OPERATIVE •

RELATED  
SERVICES

COMPUTER  
GRAPHICS

01-249 9212

TOP FLOOR, 10a BRADBURY ST. N.16

# WHAT'S ON

## Theatre

**HALF MOON THEATRE:** 213 Mile End Road, E1. 790 4000.  
**LUSTY ALBERT'S TIMELY PASSION** presented by CAMOUFLAGE. A musical entertainment centred around the life of Albert Einstein. Wed 4 to Sat 7 Jan at 8pm (Thurs 5 at 7pm) and Tues 10 to Sat 14 Jan at 8pm.

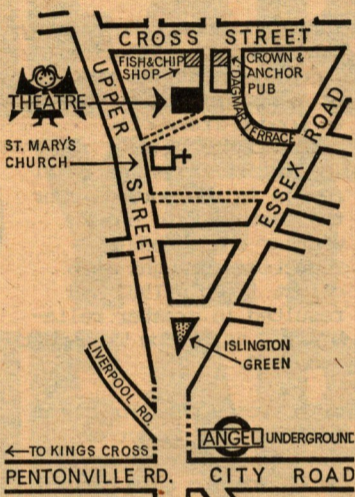
From 26 Jan **MAN FRIDAY** a play by Adrian Mitchell. A satire on British Imperialism using music and audience involvement in an imaginative swipe at the English liberal Conscience.

**THEATRE ROYAL:** Gerry Raffles Square, E15. 534 0310.  
**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** by David Cregan with music by Brian Protheroe. From 5 Dec to 21 Jan. No concessions Saturday evenings or Bank Holidays.

**THE LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE:** 14 Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1.  
**THE PRINCE AND THE MOUSE** a Fairy Story suitable for the 6 plus age group. From 24 Dec to 8 Jan. Ring 226 1787 for times and further details of this and other productions.

UPPER ST. BUSES....  
 4.4a.30.  
 19.141a.  
 172.43.  
 104.279.

ESSEX ROAD BUSES....  
 38.38a.  
 73.171.  
 277.



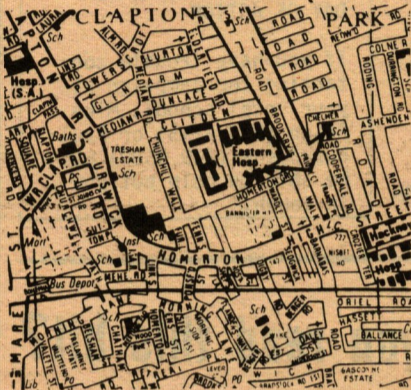
"It's a riotous inventive show, It has all the ingredients of a traditional panto." *City Limits* December '82.

## Other events

**HACKNEY CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLICE BILL:** meets every Sunday at 3pm at Hackney Trades Hall. National Demonstration on January 21. More details from 50 Rectory Rd, N16; Tel 254 9849.

**ROACH FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE** Public meeting to discuss Colin Roach, the police and the state. December 14 at 7.30pm at Assembly Rooms, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, E8.

How to find Chats Palace.



**THE RIO CINEMA** DECEMBER

TICKETS: £2.00 (under 15s, OAPs, UB40s £1.00)

FEATURES (FRIDAYS TO WEDNESDAYS)							THURSDAYS & MATINEES	
<b>FRIDAY 2 SATURDAY 3</b> the stunning classic... 8.45 <b>Black Orpheus</b> plus FLYING DOWN TO RIO: (U.S. 1933) 89 mins. 1.00 with Oliver Rogers, Fred Astaire, Delaney del Rio, Gene Raymond.							<b>SUNDAY 4 at 2.30pm</b> THE SARACOSSA MANUSCRIPT (Poland, 1965) 124 mins. sub-titles. 4.45 + Wajda's A GENERATION (Poland, 1964) 91 mins. sub-titles.	
<b>SUN 4 MON 5 TUE 6 WED 7</b> at 7.00 & 9.00 The latest film from the director of "THE GERMAN SISTERS" <b>MARGARETHE VON TROTTER'S FRIENDS AND HUSBANDS</b> HANNA SCHYGULLA - ANGELA WINKLER							<b>THURSDAY 8 at 2.00pm</b> THE CHINA SYNDROME (U.S. 1978) 122 mins. PG Jane Fonda as the reporter fighting against the dangers of nuclear power. A frightening, exciting and more important film. **ALL TICKETS & RESERVATIONS**	
<b>FRIDAY 9 SAT 10 SUN 11 MON 12 TUES 13 WED 14</b> Fassbinder's <b>Fear Eats the Soul</b> AND <b>FORBIDDEN RELATIONS</b> A FILM BY COLLETTA KATZ... 8.45							<b>THURSDAY 15 at 2.00pm</b> THE ELEPHANT MAN (U.S. 1980) 124 mins. David Lynch's recreation of Victorian London around the story of John Merrick. The so-called "elephant man". **ALL TICKETS & RESERVATIONS**	
<b>FRIDAY 16 SAT 17 SUN 18</b> A Film by TALENTED BILLY <b>TIME BANDITS &amp; CARTOONS</b> MON 19 TUES 20 WED 21							<b>SUNDAY 18 at 2.30pm</b> "THE LADY VANISHES" (U.S. 1938) 97 mins. sub-titles. 4.30 + THE THIRTY NINE STEPS (U.S. 1935) 81 mins.	
<b>FRIDAY 23, SATURDAY 24, SUNDAY 25: CINEMA CLOSED. Happy Christmas!!!</b>							<b>THURSDAY 22 at 7.00pm</b> SIR HENRY AT RAILSTON END (U.S. 1980) 71 mins. 7.00 + SITTING DUCKS (U.S. 1972) 88 mins.	
<b>MONDAY 26 TO SATURDAY 31: A SEASON OF THE MOST REQUESTED FILMS BY RIO CUSTOMERS DURING 1983</b>							<b>THURSDAY 29 at 2.00pm</b> SPECIAL CHILDREN'S SHOW THE THIEF OF BAGHDAD & CARTOONS (U.S. 1940) 110 mins. For Hackney Play Assoc.	
<b>MONDAY 26</b> Bergman's <b>Fanny and Alexander</b> 4.30							<b>SATURDAY 31</b> Peter Hill's <b>THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY</b> 4.30	
<b>TUESDAY 27</b> Neil Jordan's <b>THE DRAUGHTSMAN'S LUNCH</b> 4.30							<b>THURSDAY 29</b> Neil Jordan's <b>ANGEL</b> 4.30	
<b>WEDNESDAY 28</b> Richard Dyer's <b>THE PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH</b> 4.30							<b>FRIDAY 30</b> Peter Greenaway's <b>THE DRAUGHTSMAN'S LUNCH</b> 4.30	

**THAT HORROR NIGHT**  
**GROW BUMPS IN THE NIGHT**

**CHATS PALACE**  
 homerton  
 community centre  
**XMAS SHOW**  
 42 Brooksbys Walk E9.  
**1983 OPENS DEC 14th**  
**COME DRESS UP YOUR FEAR**  
**OF MONSTERS**  
**GET IN CHEAP**

**TICKETS**  
 Waged £3  
 Unwaged  
 Senior Citizens,  
 Students £2  
 Under 16's £1

**Transport**  
 Buses 22/22a/27/106/253/30/52  
 B.R. Hackney Central/Downs

Chats Palace gratefully acknowledges support from The London Borough of Hackney, The Greater London Arts Association, The Inner London Education Authority and sponsorship from The British Petroleum Company plc. Chats Palace is a company limited by guarantee and is registered charity no. 275363.

BON-TON-ROULET

PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes N16. 226-5930.

### ★ ★ DECEMBER BANDSTAND ★ ★

**MONDAY 5th**  
**COUP D'ETAT**  
 Jazz featuring PHIL OVERHEAD, JOHN KNOX.

**MONDAY 12th**  
**MINISTRY OF SOUND**  
 Five piece explosive ROCK n' JIVE £1.00

**MONDAY 19th**  
**COUP D'ETAT**

**MONDAY 26th**  
**MINISTRY OF SOUND**

**WEDNESDAY 7th**  
**REACTORS**  
 Anti Nuclear, Super Macho, Feminist, Right to Work Peace Duo

**WEDNESDAY 14th**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
 Comedy... "History of Western Music Open University Course" £1.00

**WEDNESDAY 21st**  
**REACTORS**

**WEDNESDAY 28th**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**THURSDAY 1st**  
**NORTH SIDE RHYTHM & BLUES ENSEMBLE**  
 14 piece, all star line up £2.00

**THURSDAY 8th**  
**HANK WANGFORD**  
 ★ **RUBY TURNER**  
 Seven piece, Birmingham Soul special £2.50

**THURSDAY 15th**  
**HANK WANGFORD**  
 Tear Jerker £2.50

**THURSDAY 23rd**  
**DANCE HALL STYLE**  
 £1.50

**FRIDAYS**  
**JUICE ON THE LOOSE** £2.00

**FRIDAY 23rd**  
 ★ **JUICE plus special guests** BAR EXTENSION £2.50

**SATURDAYS**  
**BIG CHIEF** ... with ART THEMEN, DAVE CHAMBERS £1.50  
 Winners, Diners, Midnight Losers even Boozers & intelligent music lovers!

**SATURDAY 24th**  
**CAYENNE** ... Latin, Jazz, Funk Big Band £2.00

**SATURDAY 31st**  
 ★ **BIG CHIEF** ★ ... NEW YEAR'S EVE ... BAR EXTENSION ... RAVE UP ... £2.50

**SUNDAY 4th**  
**CHEVALLIER BROTHERS**  
 D'Jango Lives, O.K.

**SUNDAY 11th**  
**REPUBLIC**  
 ... Be There ... or be Square £2.00

**SUNDAY 18th**  
**REPUBLIC**

**SUNDAY LUNCH TIME 11th/18th**  
**JACK PINE QUINTET**  
 ... Be Bop ... Jump ... Jam & all that 50p

CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED.

Doors open at 8.30 and most bands want to start by 9.15 - please give the musicians your support by coming early. Reduced admission most nights for claimants/students producing UB40/student union card. No reduction for latecomers.

music every night

# Save ILEA

Continued from front page.

The Hackney Save ILEA campaign was set up in November as part of a London-wide initiative to counter the government threat. It will act as a central clearing house to support parent and teacher campaigns in local schools. So far the Hackney Save ILEA Campaign has supplied speakers and leaflets for meetings in schools across the borough. "In some schools parents are more active than teachers, and in others, it's vice versa," parent Mike Rosen told HPP.

Pupils, parents and teachers at the Orchard school in Holcroft Road E9 are preparing a special exhibition showing what a post-cuts classroom would look like. Items of equipment, like videos, and teachers that would be cut will be labelled to assist the visitor. The exhibition is being readied for the December 8 afterschool rally at Westminster Central Hall.

The National Union of Teachers has organised the meeting, to begin at 4.30pm, to pressure the government and to encour-

rage Conservative cold feet. Many Tory voters object to scrapping ILEA. "MPs are getting nervous," Save ILEA activist Phill Stott told HPP. "We want to drive wedges into the cracks in government policy, and there are some. Officers in the Department of Education and Science are known to oppose the White Paper, and the House of Lords may throw it out in January."

The NUT and other unions are also planning a one day strike and day of action for 24 January. "But we want as big a parent involvement as possible," says Phil Stott. "Parent anger will force the government to back down."

"Both these proposals are equally damaging and both have to be defeated. They would mean devastating cuts-- 3,000 teacher redundancies, a 90 per cent cut in school allowances, a drastic reduction in maintenance budgets and a reduction in non-teaching and administrative staff. If

these proposals become law, class sizes will get bigger, children will have less equipment and schools will have less money to bring in helpers."

If you are concerned about the future of ILEA and want to get involved in the Hackney Save ILEA campaign, contact your local school and look out for leaflets on the campaign.

Also remember the upcoming events:

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 4.30  
Rally at Westminster Central Hall

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY -  
DAY OF ACTION

If you have trouble contacting the campaign at your local school, Mike Rosen (986 6115) or Paul Burroughs (249 9600) may be able to help put you in touch.

# When was the last time you saw a 106?



In mid-November the Hackney Public Transport Action Committee sent the results of a bus reliability survey to London Transport.

The report investigated 11 routes in the borough over the past year to check whether the schedule reductions brought into effect in July 1982 had resulted in greater reliability, as London Transport promised.

HPTAC researcher Tony Kent told HPP: "a number of the routes have improved but there are some awful blackspots. We found, for example, that the 149 and 38 buses are very reliable, but the 106 is absolutely dismal. It must be the worst route in Hackney."

The buses usually come at 45 minute intervals, in pairs. The only thing it can be relied on for is not to be there when it ought to be. We call it the missing link."

The infamous number 30 does appear to be more reliable, but mainly because more of the buses are being turned around at Hackney Central station. Residents of Hackney Wick may not have noticed any improvement, but LIT say they intend to strengthen the eastern end of the route from February 1984.

HPTAC has asked London Transport for a response to their survey, but typically, they're still waiting for one to show up.



## Have you read this bit?

### HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Thursday, 12 January.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

Have you ever wondered how this paper got into your hand? The hardest task for a small independent newspaper like HPP is getting the printed copies distributed. Unless your paper is called the Stockport Messenger and is pushed through people's letter boxes by an army of exploited teenagers, your publication will probably be governed by the first law of Newspaper Distribution: LOW SALES=LITTLE MONEY=NO PAPER

Being a non-profit voluntary paper, HPP lives pen to mouth every month. You may have become used (dare we say it, cynical) to our annual cries for financial assistance... But this year is different! What we really need are human resources. If 50 people volunteered to sell 5 papers every month, this would raise over £450 over the course of a year. That's enough money to print 3½ issues.

Even more important than the money is that more people would become involved with the paper. It's also a very easy step from selling 5 copies at a meeting or on a demonstration to writing

up a short report about your activities for HPP. Through such a network HPP could not only improve its finances, but also its news coverage.

This month's issue is a combined December/January 1984 special edition. It was produced under trying circumstances and the two month gap will give this month's coordinator time to calm down. As may be apparent, we also need people to help lay out the paper and prepare it for the printers.

If you would like to sell HPP, or help in any other way, ring one of us:

Sue 254 7191  
Ian 985 7513  
John 533 2933

or come to our next editorial meeting at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8,

on

Thursday 12 January

SEE YOU THERE!

## Help put the people into HPP!

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

I enclose a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ to HPP

Subscription only

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, c/o 10a Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Telephone: 806 9211 (evenings and weekends only)

# STRIKERS SAY THANKS

After striking for 4 weeks against pay and conditions at the Queensland Pleaters Factory in Elsdale Street, E8 (see cover story in November's HPP), the 6 Queensland strikers issued the following statement:

After the way the employers have treated us, the bad conditions we worked under and their refusal to negotiate reasonably all this time, we feel that now we would not want to work for them -- even if they changed their minds.

Therefore we have unanimously decided to end our strike.

We would like to thank the Union for its speedy recognition and help and the Union members, even as far away as Newcastle who took action to support us.

Our thanks are due to the Hackney Trades Council and all the local Trades Unionists and supporters in the Labour Movement and in the locality who stood with us and who donated so generously to our dispute fund.

The dispute has ended but the struggle to win a Clothing industry with decent pay and conditions will go on.

